

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:

receiving acceptance criteria for clinical trials and a series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial at a server, wherein the acceptance criteria for clinical trials and the series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial are provided over the Internet by a system of a clinical trial sponsor or investigator;

~~receiving patient profile information for a patient at [[a]] the server connected to a computer network,~~ the patient profile information submitted over the Internet by a user at a user terminal connected to the network;

comparing the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria for clinical trials stored in a database, the comparison performed by the server; and

automatically, determining ~~whether~~ that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials based on the comparison of the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria; and

~~if the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials,~~ notifying the user that the patient has prequalified for at least one specific clinical trial when the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials;

presenting to the user [[a]] the series of questions targeted to the at least one specific clinical trial after determining that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials, wherein the series of questions are provided by the server to the user terminal over the Internet;

determining ~~whether that~~ the user patient prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial based on responses ~~the user's response~~ to the targeted questions;

storing the responses to the targeted questions;

~~if the user prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial~~, providing the user with an application for the user to request that the patient ~~[[to]]~~ be a participant in the specific clinical trial at a clinical trial site for the specific clinical trial when the patient prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial, wherein the application is provided by the server to the user terminal over the Internet; and

~~if the user's application is accepted by a clinical trial site for the specific clinical trial~~, providing the contact information for the clinical trial site when the completed application is accepted by the clinical trial site for the specific clinical trial.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further including providing the user with instructions for enrolling the patient in the specific clinical trial ~~for which the user has prequalified~~.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving patient profile information further includes including asking the user a plurality of questions; and creating a patient profile based on the responses to the plurality of questions.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of asking the user a plurality of questions includes:
asking ~~the user~~ one or more static questions;
asking ~~the user~~ one or more dynamic questions which are selected based on ~~the user's~~ responses to other static and dynamic questions; and
creating the patient profile based on the responses to the static and dynamic questions.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 [[1]], wherein static questions, dynamic questions, and targeted questions are provided with a plurality of answer options, and the user may select one or more answer options in order to answer the questions.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~the user is required to submit an~~ answer is submitted in a specified format, the specified format being suitable for evaluation by a computer program process.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further including:
updating the static questions, dynamic questions, or answer options.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the completed application is ~~filled out by the user and submitted on-line~~ to the server.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the completed application is forwarded to the clinical trial site.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the patient profile is forwarded to the clinical trial site with the completed application.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the completed application and patient profile forwarded to the clinical trial site includes a patient ID number, but does not include the patient's name to protect the privacy of the patient.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further including:
notifying the clinical trial sponsor when ~~the user submits an~~ the completed application is submitted to the clinical trial site.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the user is provided with a~~ search engine is provided that allows ~~a the user to~~ search for medical information before selecting a clinical trial.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acceptance criteria includes geographic location.

19. (Currently amended) A system for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:

a server connected to the Internet a-network;

a data storage device included in the server; and

a database located in the data storage device, the database storing patient profile information for a patient and acceptance criteria for a plurality of clinical trials

a system of a clinical trial sponsor or investigator for providing the acceptance criteria for clinical trials and a series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial to the server over the Internet; and

a user terminal for providing the patient profile information for the patient to the server over the Internet;

the server comparing the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria for the clinical trials stored in the database, automatically, determining ~~whether~~ that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials based on the comparison of the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria; ~~and if the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials,~~ notifying the user that the patient has prequalified for at least one specific clinical trial ~~when the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trial;~~ presenting to the user ~~[[a]]~~ the series of questions targeted to the at least one specific clinical trial after determining that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials, wherein the series of questions are provided by the server to the user terminal over the Internet,[[.]] determining ~~whether~~ that the user patient prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical

trial based on ~~responses~~ the user's response to the targeted questions₁[[;]] storing the responses to the targeted questions₁[[;]] ~~if the user prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial,~~ providing the user with an application for the user to request that the patient [[to]] be a participant in the specific clinical trial at a clinical trial site for the specific clinical trial when the user prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial, wherein the application is provided by the server to the user terminal over the Internet₁[[;]] and if the user's application is accepted by a clinical trial site for the specific clinical trial, providing the contact information for the clinical trial site when the completed application is accepted by the clinical trial site for the specific clinical trial.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the database contains at least one of:

- a) diseasehub-disease records;
- b) drug records;
- c) content records;
- d) clinical trial records;
- e) question records;
- f) device records;
- g) patient profile records;
- g) user registration records; and
- g) trial site records.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein a record in the database contains links to other related records.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the server transmits a plurality of questions ~~to the user~~ over the Internet network, the server also transmits a plurality of answer choices for each question, the server receives responses ~~from the user~~, and the server builds a patient profile based on the responses.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the server retrieves a disease/sub-disease record corresponding to a received disease/sub-disease ~~entered by the user~~, the disease/-sub-disease record containing links to question records, the server retrieving the question records to access questions ~~to be provided to the user~~.

24. (Currently amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, performing a method for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:

receiving acceptance criteria for clinical trials and a series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial at a server, wherein the acceptance criteria for clinical trials and the series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial are provided over the Internet by a system of a clinical trial sponsor or investigator;

receiving patient profile information for a patient at ~~[[a]] the server connected to a computer network~~, the patient profile information submitted over the Internet by a user at a user terminal connected to the network;

comparing the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria for clinical trials stored in a database, the comparison performed by the server; and

automatically, determining ~~whether~~ that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials based on the comparison of the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria; and

~~if the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials~~, notifying the user that the patient has prequalified for at least one specific clinical trial when the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials;

presenting to the user ~~[[a]]~~ the series of questions targeted to the at least one specific clinical trial after determining that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials, wherein the series of questions are provided by the server to the user terminal over the Internet;

determining ~~whether~~ that the user patient prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial based on responses ~~the user's response~~ to the targeted questions;

storing the responses to the targeted questions;

~~if the user prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial~~, providing the user with an application for the user to request that the patient ~~[[to]]~~ be a participant in the specific clinical trial at a clinical trial site for the specific clinical trial when the patient prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial, wherein the application is provided by the server to the user terminal over the Internet; and

~~if the user's application is accepted by a clinical trial site for the specific clinical trial~~, providing the contact information for the clinical trial site when the completed application is accepted by the clinical trial site for the specific clinical trial.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

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41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

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46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the completed application is submitted to the server on-line.

49. (Currently amended) The system of claim 48, further comprising the server forwarding to the completed application to the clinical trial study site.

50. (Currently amended) The system of claim 49, further comprising the server forwarding the registration information to the clinical trial study site with the completed application.

51. (Currently amended) The system of claim 50, wherein the completed application and registration information forwarded to the clinical trial study site includes a patient ID number, but does not include the patient's name to protect the privacy of the patient.

52. (Currently amended) The system of claim 51, further including:
the server notifying the clinical study sponsor when the ~~user-submits the~~ completed application is submitted to the clinical trial study site.

53. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19 further comprising,
providing ~~the user with~~ a search engine that allows a the user to search for medical information before selecting a clinical study.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) The computer executable software code of claim 24 [[54]], wherein the completed application is ~~filled out by the user and~~ submitted to the server on-line.

56. (Currently amended) The computer executable software code of claim 55, further comprising the forwarding to the completed application to the clinical trial ~~study~~ site.

57. (Currently amended) The computer executable software code of claim 56, further comprising the forwarding the registration information to the clinical trial ~~study~~ site with the application.

58. (Currently amended) The computer executable software code of claim 24 [[54]], wherein the completed application and registration information forwarded to the clinical trial ~~study~~ site includes a patient ID number, but does not include the patient's name to protect the privacy of the patient.

59. (Currently amended) The computer executable software code of claim 58, further including: the server notifying the clinical study sponsor when ~~the completed~~ the user submits an application is submitted to the clinical trial ~~study~~ site.

60. (Currently amended) The computer executable software code of claim 24, further comprising providing ~~a user with~~ a search engine that allows ~~a the user to~~ search for medical information before selecting a clinical study.